

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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UNCLAS GENEVA 09266

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ICEM, AO, PO
SUBJECT: ICEM REPATRIATIONS FROM PORTUGAL TO ANGOLA

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM) DIRECTOR JOHN THOMAS WHICH REFERS TO QUESTION PUT TO HIM EARLIER THIS YEAR BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN AS TO WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY REPATRIATIONS FROM PORTUGAL TO ANGOLA, AND IF SO, WHETHER ICEM MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN ASSISTING RETURNEES.

2. THOMAS WRITES THAT ICEM HAS NOW BEEN REQUESTED BY PORTUGAL TO ARRANGE RETURN OF FIRST 82 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN GIVEN "SAFE CONDUCT" BY ANGOLA AND HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY UNHCR TO ASSURE THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO RETURN ON THEIR OWN FREE WILL. FIRST MOVEMENT WAS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 15. PER CAPITA FARE, DEPENDING ON DESTINATION IN ANGOLA, IS ESTIMATED AT \$410 AND FINANCING "FORESEEN" WILL BE \$200 PER CAPITA FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR ASSISTANCE TO RETURNING NATIONALS (IARN). THOMAS REQUESTS PERMISSION TO DRAW REMAINDER FROM CONTRIBUTION MADE AVAILABLE BY UNCLASSIFIED

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

3. THOMAS INVITES ATTENTION TO ONE SPECIAL PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD, NAMELY THAT RETURNEES WISH TO BRING ALL THEIR BELONGINGS, INCLUDING HOUSEHOLD GOODS WITH THEM, WHICH WOULD FAR EXCEED FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES. INITIAL FIGURES INDICATE THAT AVERAGE BAGGAGE WEIGHT PER PERSON

WILL BE ABOUT 100 KILOGRAMS. BASED ON CHEAPEST AIR FREIGHT TARIFFS AND AFTER DEDUCTING FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCES, APPROXIMATELY \$140 PER PERSON WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID FOR THIS ITEM. ICEM IS MAKING EFFORTS TO HAVE EITHER UNHCR OR IARN ACCEPT PAYMENT, OR PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR THIS BAGGAGE TRANSPORTATION. IN THE EVENT, HOWEVER, THAT NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE CANNOT BE RAISED IN THIS, OR ANOTHER, MANNER, THOMAS REQUESTS PERMISSION TO DRAW FROM THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO MEET THESE COSTS. HE STATES HIS BELIEF THAT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE DECISION OF THESE PEOPLE TO RETURN IS THAT THEY HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING THEIR BELONGINGS WITH THEM. HE THEREFORE EXPRESSES HOPE FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ASAP RE REQUESTS PARAS 2 AND 3 FOR RELAY TO THOMAS.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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